

IDOA Begins Outreach Campaign Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance/Medicaid Programs

As of January 1, 2001, the Circuit Breaker Program will be expanded to aid additional Illinois seniors and cover more chronic illness medications. And, the General Assembly raised the Medicaid income eligibility standard for Illinoisans.

The Illinois Department on Aging has begun preparing materials, such as handouts distributed at the State Fair in August, to inform seniors about how the changes affect them. The Department is also developing media strategies which include television and radio advertisements, as well as senior-friendly brochures and flyers. The materials will be distributed during Pharmaceutical Assistance Week, set for January 8-14, 2001.

Additionally, regional workshops that are geared toward legislators and those who work in the Aging Network have been scheduled. Experts will provide an overview of the Medicaid and Circuit Breaker programs and changes to both.

Workshops will be held November 15 at the Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon; November 16 at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield; December 12 at the William Tell

Holiday Inn, Countryside; and December 13 at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago.

The workshops are free; however, **advance registration is required.** For more information or applications, contact Matt Wescott at 217-785-3357.

Those persons who do not have

an opportunity to attend one of the regional trainings may wish to participate in a satellite training on January 11, 2001 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. The satellite training will be downlinked to community colleges throughout Illinois. For more information, call 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY). ☼



The 2000 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame inductees are congratulated by Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber (center) and Mike Dolan of Walgreens (right). Beginning at left are Tony Perry, Sheryl Clayton, Marilyn Kaiser (accepting for Charles Kaiser), Hazel Jones, and Stan Jorstad.

Five inducted into Hall of Fame

Five extraordinary individuals were inducted into the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame August 14, 2000 at the Senior Auditorium during the State Fair. They were selected from more than eighty entries to the Illinois Department on Aging. The winners were selected for achievement in the areas of community service, education, performing arts and the work force.

Fame continued on page 3 ➤

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

When Jim Mamer nominated Marge Creek to be “Employee of the Year,” he wrote to the Illinois Department on Aging about her considerable activities promoting East Peoria. He also wrote, “I have never seen a time that she has not lifted my spirit just by talking to her.”

That’s quite a compliment! And, I can tell you that the twelve individuals honored as “Employees of the Year” in September lifted the spirits of everyone at the event, held in celebration of “National Employ the Older Worker Week (Sept. 24-30, 2000).”

We in the Aging Network know what great employees older individuals make. They bring to the workplace their experience and wisdom and help set the standards of excellence around them.

Ninety-eight-year-old Allien Hatfield, for example, finds fulfillment in working in the Easton Cafe — the social center for the Mason County farm community. She started working there at age 68 — about the age many people might consider retirement. That was three decades ago. “And, in all those years, she has never been sick and missed a day that I can remember,” said Jean Huber, owner of the Cafe.

Other “Employees of the Year” also provided examples of the extraordinary work ethic that is the premier characteristic of older workers. Letters of nomination praised everything from their computer proficiency and productivity to organization and skills in working with the public.



Obviously, they believe in what they do. “Employee of the Year” Nadine Reasons is an outreach worker for Putnam County Achievement Services. That doesn’t mean she “punches out” at 5 o’clock. Her outreach extends after hours and on weekends, when she can be found making and delivering her own baked goodies to needy seniors in the county.

Likewise, Marie McDonnell of Sterling works in the Whiteside County Senior Center doing everything from dispatching buses to answering phones. Still, she volunteers her service to the Center on Sundays because it’s busy when Bingo is held.

Some of the nominations even mentioned obstacles — health and otherwise — that these employees have faced. One, while still working, has even been caregiver to a husband and parents who suffered strokes. You and I know how challenging that is at any age.

Their indomitable spirit is their hallmark.

Of course, we also commend the employers who continue to have seniors on their payrolls. They know what we know — that older workers are second to none!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo E. Schreiber".

Margo E. Schreiber, Director

Scholarship Named for Alfred P. Galvan

Alfred P. Galvan, who serves on the Illinois Council on Aging, has been honored by having the American GI Forum of Illinois re-name its scholarship the “Alfred P. Galvan Scholarship.”

Galvan, who has served twelve terms as State Commander of the Forum, is known for his lifelong commitment to gaining equal

rights and better educational and economic opportunities for Hispanics. He continues to actively serve the Forum and is currently planning its national conference set for August, 2001, in Tinley Park.

He was instrumental in bringing the SER Jobs For Program, a national employment and training

program, to Chicago. He is also credited with bringing two Marine ROTC units to Benito Juarez High School and Noble Charter Academy, both in Chicago.

In addition to serving on the Illinois Council on Aging, Galvan serves on the Illinois Veterans Advisory Council. ✻

The new inductees are:

Tony Perry, 69, of **Kankakee** — the honoree in the Community Service Category, is the guiding force behind Christmas in April, and he has worked to revive the economy of Kankakee through efforts including the initiation of the Area Jobs Development Association. He has rehabilitated buildings and created Hillcrest Association of Responsible People, which has in turn spurred a Neighborhood Watch Program, an annual “Make a Difference Day,” an East Side Job Fair and more.

Stan Jorstad, 78, of **St. Charles** — the honoree in the Performance/Graphic Arts Category has spent a lifetime photographing America’s national parks. Strongly influenced by Ansel Adams, his mentor and friend, Jorstad’s work is exhibited all over the world. He has traveled over 100,000 miles and hiked through all 54 national parks carrying heavy photo equipment to bring nature’s beauty to all. His book, *These Rare Lands: Images*

of America’s National Parks is highly acclaimed.

Hazel Jones, 82, of **Vandalia** — the honoree in the Labor Force Category has dedicated her life to influencing her community both economically and socially. She and her late husband, Don, operated the Don Jones Studio, portrait and commercial photography for five decades. She also ventured into selling gifts and gourmet and health foods. Mrs. Jones produced the magazine, “The Senior News,” and is currently a radio talk show co-host on Vandalia’s WPMB radio station.

There was a tie in the Education Category, with both Sheryl Anne Howard Clayton, Ph.D. and Charles John “Jack” Kaiser being named honorees. Kaiser was inducted posthumously, as he passed away March 28, 2000, after battling non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Sheryl Anne Howard Clayton, Ph.D., 71, of **Washington Park** is a retired educator in the East St. Louis Public Schools, but she never quit teaching. “She is better than anyone else when it comes to being interested in people as to

their best educational welfare and helping them to achieve at doing their best,” her nomination stated. Dr. Clayton’s influence is not limited to young people; currently, she teaches adults to read. She was the first African-American woman to serve as librarian in the city of East St. Louis and continues to be active with libraries. She is also a foster parent.

Charles John “Jack” Kaiser, age 72 upon his death in March, of **St. Charles**, was a teacher, mentor and coach at Oak Park River Forest High School for 48 years. He never used a sick day in his entire career. He coached generations of players and is considered a legend in high school baseball. Kaiser holds the record for the most wins by a coach in Illinois and the third most in the nation with 892. In February, 2000, the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association named him “Coach of the Century.”

Walgreens Drugstores sponsored the Hall of Fame. Inductees were selected by a team of judges representing Illinois Aging Network agencies and organizations.



Grogan Places 7th in National Pageant

Mabel Grogan, of Belleville, who was crowned the winner of this year’s **Ms. Senior Illinois American Classic Pageant**, went on to place seventh in the National Pageant held September 9-10 in Wilmington, Delaware.

She first won the Ms. Senior Illinois American Classic in May in Oakbrook Terrace. After advancing to the national competition, Grogan was interviewed by pageant officials and also performed

a tap-dancing routine.

She placed seventh in the national event, which she attended with three of her five children, while Ms. Missouri won the national crown.

The date for the next Ms. Senior Illinois American Classic Pageant has been set for March 17, 2001. Applications are available on the IDoA website (www.state.il.us/aging) or by calling the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY). ❖



Ms. Illinois American Classic Mabel Grogan



Twelve "Employees of the Year" are pictured here with Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber. The Department honored the employees at a September event in Springfield to celebrate National Employ the Older Worker Week. Pictured next to Schreiber is Allien Hatfield of Easton, Illinois. Hatfield continues to find, at age 98, great reward in her work in a local cafe.

Outstanding Older Workers Lauded

The Illinois Department on Aging held a luncheon this Fall to pay tribute to "Employees of the Year" to celebrate National Employ the Older Worker Week (Sept. 24-30, 2000).

Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber addressed the crowd of 600 gathered in Springfield's Crowne Plaza, stressing the importance of hiring older workers. (See "Dear Friends" on page 2).

The following "Employees of the Year" were honored:



Nadine Reasons, 72, of Granville, shown (left) with Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber, is an outreach worker for Putnam County Achievement Service Inc. She is a true friend to seniors and visits them in their homes to attend to their various needs and is an active volunteer. Nadine was also named a "Prime Time Award" winner by Green Thumb, Inc., making her eligible to compete nationally as an outstanding older worker.

Marge Creek, 69 of East Peoria is employed by the East Peoria Chamber of Commerce and is the force behind it's Festival of Lights, among other events.

Nelda Francis, 72, of Anna is a homemaker with Addus Healthcare of Anna and is an extremely dependable, trustworthy and dedicated caregiver.

Ann Guilford, 75, of Chicago works at Salem House, a division of Lutheran Social Service, where her co-workers marvel at her motivation and efficiency in accomplishing large tasks.

Darlene "Dee" Hadsell, 66, of Rochester works as the Conference and Training Coordinator at the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Community Health and Prevention. She developed a statewide safety awareness program for women and senior citizens.

Allien Hatfield, 98, of Easton has been a dishwasher at the Easton Cafe for thirty years. She tried to retire at age 90 but didn't like it. The pride of Easton received a standing ovation at the luncheon.

Marion Moeller, 75, of the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce has a background as a legal secretary and receptionist. Her professionalism, enthusiasm, dedication, skills, and sense of humor were credited with rebuilding the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce.

Rosemary L. Schallhorn, 68, of Princeton is a professional artist who has taught art, sewing and craft classes and works extensively with battered and abused children.

The following "Employees of the Year" were able to find meaningful work through Title V of the Older Americans Act, which is administered through the Illinois Department on Aging:

Marie McDonnell, 83, of **Sterling** works in the Whiteside County Senior Center where she answers phones, dispatches buses and cleans the office, among her other duties. A singer with the Sunshine Singers, Marie also still rides a wave runner.

Clementine Parker, 70, of **Venice** is the "backbone" of the Madison County Urban League, where she greets clients and is known as a perfectionist in getting them help.

Marjorie Sprankle, 84, of **Rock Falls** works at the Illinois Department of Employment Security in Sterling where she handles multiple tasks and is described as an employee managers only dream about.

Jonnie Taylor, 68, of **East St. Louis** works at LINC, Inc. of Belleville where she advocates and helps increase public awareness of blind and visually impaired issues and is a renowned "people person."

"Employers of the Year" also received honors for their solid record of hiring older workers. Schreiber praised them for their excellent reputation in opening the doors of opportunity for those 55 years of age and older.

They are: The **Henry County Senior Citizen Center** of Kewanee, **Sam's Club** of Champaign, the **Social Security Office** of Bloomington, and the **Urban League** of Champaign County. ✽



Health

Corner

The **Illinois Department of Public Health** is sponsoring a **Men's Health Fair** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. December 13-14 at the James R. Thompson Center rotunda in Chicago. Health screenings will be offered.

Voice of the Diabetic is offered free to any interested person upon request. Readers may receive the publication in print, on audio cassette, or in both formats. If interested, call 573-875-8911 or write Voice of the Diabetic, 811 Cherry St., Suite 309, Columbia, MO 65201.

The **Brookdale Center on Aging** is offering **Help For Seniors**, a set of eight publications designed for use by professionals, older persons and family members who may be caring for an older relative. Written in an easy-to-understand question-and-answer format, the set contains information about Medicaid, Medicare, Managed Care, Long Term Care, Supplemental Security Income, and Medigap Insurance. Cost is \$28.70 (including shipping and handling) and can be ordered by sending a check payable to the Brookdale Center on Aging, Help For Seniors, Sadin Institute on Law, 425 E. 25th St., N.Y., NY 10010-2590.

The Center is also offering another publication titled **The Brookdale Senior Rights Report**, which is published six times a year. It costs \$100 for hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, associations, universities, libraries, and places with ten or more employees, and \$50 for senior centers, legal service organizations, county offices for aging, county social service departments, and social service agencies with less than ten employees. See numbers and addresses above for more information. To order or for more information about either publication, call 212-481-4433 or 518-433-9011. E-mail address is brookdale@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu. Website is www.brookdale.org.

The **Arthritis Foundation's 10th Annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk** will be held November 18, 2000 in Washington Park, Springfield. Pre-registration costs \$18, or \$20 on the day of the event. You can also register at the Springfield Running Center from 4-7 p.m. November 17, 2000. Walkers and runners collect pledges and walk or run wearing jingle bells on their shoes. The event benefits people affected by the more than 100 forms of arthritis and related diseases. To register, call the Arthritis Foundation at 217-523-2200.

For information on a run/walk in your area, call 1-800-795-9115.

October: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

An estimated 182,800 new cases of breast cancer are expected to occur among American women in 2000. Health professionals and all others interested are encouraged to help promote preventive measures. For a tool kit and catalog designed to help raise breast health awareness at hospitals, mammography centers, health fairs and other presentations anytime throughout the year, call 1-800-635-2666. Most items come with your free imprint.

Outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsmen and Elder Abuse Caseworker of the Year Named

Awards were presented to an outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsman, Ombudsman Volunteer, and Elder Abuse Caseworker during the Illinois Department on Aging's 14th Annual Elder Rights Conference August 2-3, 2000 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Chicago.

Winners are:

Outstanding Long Term Ombudsman Volunteer: Selma Horton of Pana, volunteer with I-CARE, serving Christian County. Horton has served as lead volunteer advocate for the past three years and has been a volunteer for seven years and recruits and trains other volunteers who visit nursing homes.

Donald Zilhart, who volunteers for the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, received a "Certificate of Recognition" for his work as a Long Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer.

Outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsman: Shirley Kaskowitz of DeKalb has been an ombudsman for Catholic Charities in the Rockford Diocese for seven years, working in the DeKalb office. She is a registered nurse and formerly worked in a long term care facility.

The following Long Term Care Ombudsmen received Certificates of Recognition: **Kathleen Allison** of the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging in Bloomington; **Nancy Flowers** of the Evanston Commission on Aging; **Robyn O'Neill** of the



Cheryl Sugent (left), Illinois Department on Aging's Older American Services Division Manager, presents awards to (beginning left) Illinois Department on Aging's Elder Abuse and Neglect Program and Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Bureau Chief **Kathleen Quinn**, Outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsman **Shirley Kaskowitz**, Outstanding Elder Abuse Caseworker **Georgia Ryan**, and Outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer **Selma Horton**.

Legal Assistance Foundation in Chicago, and **Cathy Weightman-Moore** of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockford.

Outstanding Elder Abuse Caseworker: Georgia Ryan of Casey has worked as a caseworker for Cumberland Associates of Toledo, Illinois, for four years. Her nomination described her as "energetic, enthusiastic, and a dedicated worker" which translates into excellent service for seniors in east-central Illinois.

The following Elder Abuse Caseworkers received "Certificates of Recognition":

Stephanie Bean of CRIS Senior Services in Danville; **Julie Berktoed** of Catholic Charities, Northeast/Northwest Case Management, Chicago; **Kim Crutcher** of PATH in

Bloomington; **Maria DiMarco** of the Proviso Council on Aging in Bellwood; **Kay Edler** of the Stephenson County Senior Center in Freeport; **Josh Mitzen** of Metropolitan Family Services in Evanston; **Duane Pingsterhaus** of Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurses Association in Swansea; **Dana Watkins** of Lutheran Social Services in East Hazel Crest, and **Bonnie Smith** of the North Shore Senior Center in Northfield.

Kathleen Quinn of Springfield was recognized for her leadership over the past ten years as Bureau Chief of the Illinois Department on Aging's Elder Abuse and Neglect Program and Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The program is expected to handle more than 8,000 allegations of abuse and neglect throughout the state this year. ✚

Queen and IDoA Employee among Senior Olympians

Mabel Grogan, 70, Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman 2000, brought home two gold medals in the 2000 Senior Olympics held over two weekends in September in Springfield.

Grogan, of Belleville, won the gold medals in swimming events. The athlete is a mother of five children, and has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Grogan also had the honor of lighting the torch for the start of the Senior Olympics (below).



As Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman, Grogan makes appearances around the state, promoting wellness and fitness, and encouraging other adults to become involved in worthwhile activities.



Geno Milinowski (above), who supervises the Illinois Department on Aging's Print Shop, was the first employee of the Department to compete in the Senior Olympics.

Milinowski won two silver medals for running in 10K and 5K races, at 43:16 minutes and 21:25 minutes, respectively. He plans to compete in the National Senior Olympics next July in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. ✧

New Videos Available from IDoA

The Illinois Department on Aging has added five new videos to its lending library.

The Apple of Your Eye (15-minutes) is geared to grandparents to help them be more involved in their grandchildren's lives.

Psychiatric Aspects of Home Health Care (25-minutes) discusses safe and effective intervention strategies when treating patients with acute and/or chronic psychiatric concerns in a home setting.

Psychiatric Home Health Care (22-minutes) discusses ways to help patients with either a primary or secondary psychiatric condition achieve their maximum level of independence in home care. It is geared towards families, caregivers and community providers.

Transcultural Perspectives in Nursing Communication, Part 1 (20-minutes) discusses verbal communication with clients, guidelines for working with an interpreter, and communicating with clients who speak English as a second language.

Transcultural Perspectives in Nursing Communication, Part 2 (19-minutes) covers verbal and nonverbal communications. This video also discusses communication with American Indian, Asian-American, Latino and African-American clients.

To borrow videos, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY) or Dawn Shellhammer at 217-785-3387. ✧

Mark your calendars for the **2nd Annual "Heart of Illinois Senior Olympics"** to be held the first week of May, 2001 in Peoria. The event is for men and women age 50 and older. Numerous sports competitions are offered. An Arts Festival will also be held and will include performing, literary and visual arts, in addition to textiles and creative hobbies. For information and registration forms, call 309-688-3667, ext. 370.

Legislative Update



Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber has, in recent months, participated in dozens of Legislative Expos hosted by senators and representatives throughout the state. The Expos have drawn large numbers of seniors in each district, and Schreiber has taken the opportunity to inform them of recent advances affecting them, especially expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance program. Schreiber has answered questions at each Expo, and has also made numerous site visits to senior locations such as local senior centers and nursing homes. Here, she is pictured with **Representative Rick Winkel** of Champaign (3rd from left) visiting with a coffee group in Champaign. ✚



The Fourth Annual Meals-on-Wheels Illinois Charity Golf Outing held September 11, 2000 at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging and the thirteen Area Agencies on Aging, drew more than sixty golfers. Despite rain, participants reported that spirits remained high; and everyone enjoyed the golf day, which will result in more meals on holidays and weekends for Illinois seniors. ✚

Senior Centers Spotlighted During Advocacy Week

Senior Centers throughout Illinois raised their visibility during **Senior Center Advocacy Week October 23-27, 2000** with various activities.

Activities ranged from recruiting volunteers, speaking at clubs and on radio and television, and holding events for legislators and the public, and, generally, spreading the good news about what the centers mean in the lives of seniors. For more information about the various ways in which to promote senior centers, call the Association of Illinois Senior Centers at 815-786-8876. ✚

Seniors successfully advocate for a van

In the fall of 1999, the Illinois Department on Aging contracted with **Luther Center Associates** in Rockford, Illinois under the Community Care Program's Community Based Residential Facility Demonstration Project. The project provides eligible individuals with a combination of housing, personal and health related services for those who need assistance with activities of daily living. At the time the project began, Luther Center did not have its own van to provide transportation to residents. Two of the tenants believed that they needed their own van to supply readily available transportation. This began a letter writing campaign to Representative Doug Scott (District 67).

Katy Van Raden and **Elizabeth Hoge** wrote a letter to Rep. Scott, including the signatures of the residents, requesting money for a van. Rep. Scott agreed with Katy and Elizabeth that a van was needed and promised to appropriate the money. Congratulations, ladies, on a job well done! You truly are an inspiration to your fellow seniors and the Aging Network. ✚



The Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging honored State Senator Christine Radogno (below) and State Representative Jack McGuire (above center) for their work on behalf of seniors. Pictured above are Michael J. O'Donnell (left), President of the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Director of the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, and Jonathan Lavin, Director of the Suburban Area Agency on Aging.

Legislators Honored by Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging

The Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging has honored **State Senator Christine Radogno** of LaGrange and **State Representative Jack McGuire** with plaques of appreciation for their work on behalf of seniors during the Spring 2000 session of the General Assembly.

Radogno (right) sponsored the law increasing the number of low income older and disabled persons who may obtain health care under the Illinois Medicaid program. She is Chairperson of the Senate Subcommittee on Senior Health Issues.

The Association also presented a plaque to Jack McGuire (above) of Joliet for sponsoring legislation to use a share of Tobacco Settlement Funds to benefit older persons. He is Chairperson of the House Committee on Aging.

Both legislators were also lauded for the accomplishment of expanding the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program. ✿



Senator Christine Radogno

Equip for Equality's Website Debuts

Equip for Equality, a private, non-profit organization with the mission of advancing the human and civil rights of people with physical and mental disabilities in Illinois, can be reached at www.equipforequality.org.

The new website includes basic information about the organization (also in Spanish); a brochure for self-advocacy seminars; the Equalizer newsletter; press releases, and a comprehensive directory of Illinois Internet resources for people with disabilities, their families, service providers, and professionals.

The directory includes resources for legal assistance, government agencies, specific disabilities, advocacy organizations, parent training and information centers, inclusive education, assistive technology, housing and vocational services, and online resource guides.

Those with no Internet access can reach Equip for Equality by calling 1-800-537-2632. ✿

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR Veto Session

Veto dates for the Illinois General Assembly have been set for November 9, 14-16, and 28-30, 2000.

Information EXCHANGE

Chicago Launches Neighborhoods Alive!

The city of Chicago recently announced a new initiative, "Neighborhoods Alive! with Seniors."

According to the Office of Mayor Richard M. Daley, \$20 million has been allocated for ten new senior satellite service centers in Austin, Portage Park, Norwood, Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Chatham, West Town, Lake View, West Ridge and the New West Side. One of the report's top recommendations is to expand "senior space" in neighborhoods where large numbers of seniors live, and to present volunteer and intergenerational opportunities.

The Mayor announced that \$500,000 in Community Block Grant funds have been earmarked to provide alternative transportation services, job training opportunities and a community based volunteer program in the city. The Chicago Department on Aging is issuing Requests For Proposals to interested organizations.

Further, the Mayor called for a Senior Ombudsman to advise each city department. Chicago's initiatives were developed based on the findings of the Chicago Department on Aging's report, *Facing the Millennium: Chicago Elderly Needs Assessment*, released in January, 2000.

Suburban Area Agency on Aging Announces HealthCare Choices Program

The Suburban Area Agency on Aging has established HealthCare Choices, a program in suburban Cook County that helps people on Medicare understand their rights and choices, and answers their questions.

The program is supported by private funding from The Chicago Community Trust, The Retirement Research Foundation and the Community Memorial Foundation.

Program staff give presentations to groups, provide one-on-one counseling and assist people over a toll-free telephone line. In addition, they train professionals of all kinds who need to understand Medicare and related plans to better serve their clients. The HealthCare Choices team includes a bilingual specialist who provides assistance to Spanish-speaking Medicare beneficiaries and their families.

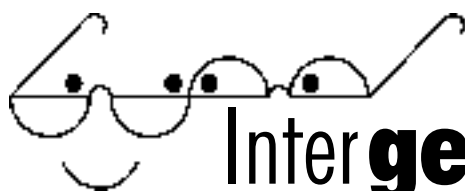
Call HealthCare Choices at 1-800-789-0003 for more information.

Identity Theft Hotline Calls Increasing

Consumers made more than 1,000 calls a week in July, 2000 (up from 400 a week in March) to the government's identity theft hotline, according to the Federal Trade Commission. The toll-free number is 877-438-4338 and allows consumers to report theft of personal data, such as social security and credit card numbers.

IDoA Wins Grand Marshal Award

The Illinois Department on Aging's float won the Grand Marshal's Award during the State Fair Parade in Springfield in August. The Grand Marshal's Award is given for first place in non-commercial entries. In addition, Department employees who comprised a special walking unit during the parade placed second for their energy and enthusiasm. The Grand Marshal's Award was \$150, and the walkers won \$50, which will go toward a pizza party for participants.



It's Intergenerational

Karla Kuizin of Springfield was appointed a **VISTA Senator** from Illinois and attended VISTA's 35th anniversary celebration October 12-14 in Washington, D.C. As Senator, Kuizin represented the Illinois Department on Aging's VISTA program and literacy initiatives in support of the America Reads Challenge. Kuizin wrote an award-winning essay about the importance of intergenerational programs, stating, "The knowledge shared and the relationship built between senior adult and student is priceless." ❖

Trainings & Special Events

NOV 1-4: San Francisco, CA; **NADD 17th Annual Conference & Exhibit Show;** 845-331-4336.

NOV 3 & 17: Rockford; **Multi-Disciplinary Certificate Program in Geriatrics for Non-Physicians;** *U of I; Oakton Community College;* 217-333-2881.

NOV 4: Elk Grove Village; **Resource Options for Elders & their Families.** (A Saturday Morning Series); *Kenneth Young Center; Sonia Rohowsky;* 847-437-5000, ext. 3899.

DEC 6-8: Chicago; **Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Ill. Dept. of Human Services;* 217-785-3387.

DEC 8-9: Chicago; **National Shared Housing Conference;** *National Shared Housing Resources Center; Pam Gurney;* 1-800-528-2000.

2001

March: Women's History Month

MAR 8-11: New Orleans, LA; **1st Nat. Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on the Aging;** 202-479-6006.

MAR 15-18: Oakbrook Terrace; **Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Lynda Ganzer;* 217-785-3343.

MAR 21-22: Champaign; **Illinois Senior Service Corps Conference** (Formerly the RSVP Conference); *Ill. Dept. on Aging, John Lazell;* 217-785-4225.

APR 10-11: Chicago; **Mental Health and Aging Conference;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Ill. Dept. of Human Services; John Lazell;* 217-785-4225.

MAY: Older Americans Month

May 16: Sites to be determined; **Intergenerational Dialogue;** 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY).

JUN 28-JUL 1: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; **5th Inter'l Conference on Long-Term Care Case Management;** 415-974-9600.

JUL 25-26: Chicago; **15th An. Elder Rights Conference;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging, John Lazell;* 217-785-4225.

AUG 10-19: Springfield; **Illinois State Fair.**

AUG 25-SEP 3: DuQuoin; **DuQuoin State Fair.**

SEP 19: Springfield; **Employ the Older Worker Week Awards Luncheon;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging;* 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY).

SEP 25-26: Rend Lake Resort; **27-28:** East Peoria; **OCT 2-3 & 4-5:** Starved Rock Lodge; **11-12:** Oakbrook Terrace; **18th An. Case Management Conference;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Marjorie Burnett;* 217-785-5291.

National Award Honors Illinois Department on Aging

The Illinois Department on Aging has been named a winner in several categories of the **National Mature Media Awards**, an annual competition which judges advertising, marketing and educational materials developed for older adults.

The Department received a Silver Award in the Magazine and Newspaper Article category for "Seniors Ask," the monthly column written by Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber, which is distributed to more than 100

publications throughout the state.

Secondly, the Department received the Merit Award in the Annual Report category for its Fiscal Year 1999 annual report titled, "Tributes," featuring powerful photographs of older persons and content explaining the Department's mission.

In addition, the Department won a Merit Award in the Public Service Announcement category for its Elder Abuse PSA, which describes elder abuse and neglect and urges suspicions of abuse to be reported to the Senior

HelpLine toll-free at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday), or 1-800-279-0400 after hours and on weekends and holidays.

The National Mature Media Awards program is presented by the Mature Market Resource Center, a national clearinghouse for the senior market. More than 1,000 entries were received and judged by a distinguished panel of judges from across the United States and representing years of expertise serving the mature market.

Anyone who would like to obtain a copy of the Elder Abuse PSA, receive the "Seniors Ask" column, or has questions should call Jan Costello, Manager of the Division of Communications and Training at 217-785-9020.

Friends of Illinois Parks Supports Senior Recreation Programs

Friends of Illinois Parks supports and promotes individual and family recreation programs for all age groups including seniors. As a nonprofit membership organization, Friends also works to advance the acquisition and beautification of parks, open spaces, trails and bike paths, and to help find solutions for teenagers and preteens in "at-risk" environments.

Seniors can enjoy a wide variety of programs and activities at local park districts and recreation agencies throughout Illinois. For example, the Schaumburg Park District offers strength training, water exercise for arthritis, and country western and ballroom

dancing.

Northbrook Park District provides Cardio-Rhythmics, tap fitness class and Tai-Chi. At the Peoria Park District senior activities include tennis, golf, and a dance program. Classes are offered in many topics including nutrition, painting and drawing, piano, computers, crafts, drama and flower arranging. Special events



such as Senior Olympics, trips, theater performances and concerts are also available at many park

districts.

To learn about the programs offered in your community, contact your local park district or recreation agency. For more information about Friends of Illinois Parks and how to become a

member, call toll-free at 1-877-523-4554 or visit the web site: www.ILparks.org and click on the Friends logo.



"Older Americans Month, 2001: The Many Faces of Aging" is the theme for next May. It acknowledges the promise and the challenges posed by our rapidly increasing multi-cultural and multi-generational aging population.

Governor
George H. Ryan

Director
Margo E. Schreiber

Deputy Director
Lynda Ganzer

Deputy Director
Nancy Nelson

Manager, Division of
Communications and
Training
Jan Costello

Communications
Assistant
Maureen Squires

Communications
Specialist
Daisy Langston Juarez

Published by the Illinois Department on Aging,
Network News is a quarterly publication distributed free to the agencies and organizations in the Aging Network, older adults, members of the Legislature, the media and other interested people.

Please direct all communication to:

Jan Costello
Illinois Department on Aging
421 East Capitol Ave., #100
Springfield, IL 62701-1789.

Copyright 1999, IL Department on Aging

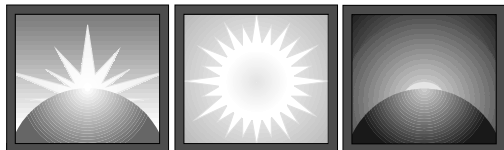
The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (voice and TTY).

Printed by Authority of
the State of Illinois

7M
October 2000



Printed on Recycled Paper



Network NEWS